

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 32.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1882.

FIVE DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

Insurances.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.
(CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.)

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS AT CURRENT RATES ON GOODS,
&c., Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [81]

LE CERCLE-TRANSPORTS.
SOCIETE ANONYME D'ASSURANCE
MARITIME MARSEILLE.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....15,000,000 Francs.

CAPITAL PAID-UP.....3,750,000 Francs.

The Undersigned, having been appointed
AGENTS of the above Company, are prepared to
GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all
parts of the World.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.
Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [4]

YANG TSZE INSURANCE
ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up).....Tls. 420,000.00
PERMANENT RESERVE.....Tls. 230,000.00
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.....Tls. 288,936.7

TOTAL CAPITAL and
ACCUMULATIONS, 2nd.....Tls. 958,936.7
April, 1881. [79]

DIRECTORS.
F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.
M. W. BOYD, Esq.
J. H. PINCKVOSS, Esq. W. M. MEYERINK, Esq.
F. D. HUTCH, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.
Messrs. BARING BROTHERS & Co.,
Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent.
68 and 69, Cornhill, E.C.

POLICES granted on MARINE RISKS to all
parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12 per cent. for Interest on
shareholders' Capital, all the PROFITS of the
UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually distributed among all Contributors of Business in
proportion to the premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd January, 1882. [53]

To be Let.

TO LET.

A LARGE GRANITE GODOWN, in "BLUE
BUILDINGS," Praya East, with immediate
possession.

Apply to J. M. GUEDES.

33, WELLINGTON-STREET,
Hongkong, 19th January, 1882. [39]

TO LET.

NO. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
"KURRAHJEAN," No. 16, ALBANY
ROAD.

OFFICES IN NO. 13, QUEEN'S ROAD
CENTRAL.

Apply to DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1882. [74]

For Sale.

A FONG, PHOTOGRAPHER,
HAS A LARGER COLLECTION OF VIEWS
than any other in CHINA.

Miniatures Painted on Ivory from \$7.

Oil Paintings on Canvas from \$5.

Cartes de Visite, Cabinet, and all other styles
of Portraits at equally moderate prices executed
under the supervision and management of
D. K. GRIFFITH,
13, Studio 8, Queen's-road:

J. AND R. TENNENT'S ALE AND
PORTER.
DAVID CORSAR & SONS'
MERCHANT NAVY
NAVY BOILED
LONG FLAX
CROWN
ARNOLD, KARBERG & Co.

Hongkong, 15th June, 1881. [5]

E. C. A. DA SILVA AND CO.,
QUEEN'S ROAD.
HAVE JUST RECEIVED
EX. FRENCH MAIL STEAMER "DJENNIAH,"

MALACA FRESH GRAPES, GENTLEMEN'S ready-
made OVERCOATS, Embroidered and Fine White
LACE, BALL HANDBERCHIES, Ladies' and Gentle-
men's FINEST WHITE LINEN HANDBERCHIES,
White TRAINED SKIRTS for BALL DRESSES,
White KID GLOVES, Embroidered and Fancy
FANS.

Great Variety in ORIZA, PERFUME, TOILET
REQUISITES, comprising:—ORIZA NEW MOWN
HAY, ORIZA OPONONAK BOUQUET, ORIZA
WATER, ORIZA SCOTCH, LAVENDER, ORIZA LVS,
ORIZA ESS, HELIOTROPE,
&c., &c., &c.

ORIZA POWDER, ORIZA DENTIFRICE, ORIZA
SOAP, ORIZA HAIR OIL,
&c., &c., &c.

ECA DA SILVA & Co.

Hongkong, 23rd November, 1881. [9]

FOR SALE.

A USTRALIAN WINES, PORT & SHERRY,
of the finest quality, from Coalta Vine-
yard, Branxton, Hunter River, N.S.W.

Apply to R. FRASER-SMITH,

No. 6, Peddar's Hill.

For Sale.

H. FOURNIER & CO.

HAVE FOR SALE, JUST RECEIVED EX
"PEHO,"
A SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF
FANCY GOODS.

FANCY PLAYING CARDS,
CRACKERS.

BONBONS (Assorted).

CHOCOLATE CREAM.

CHOCOLATE MEXIER.

FIGS.

MALAGA RAISINS.

TABLE PLUMS.

FRUITS IN JUICE (Assorted).

CONFITURES DE ST. JAMES
(in Bottles and Tins).

SYRUPS (Assorted).

HUNTLY and PALMER'S BISCUITS.

ALMONDS and NUTS.

CAVILLA.

PATE DE FOIE GRAS.

NOIX DE VEAU TRUFFEE (in Tins).

COTELETTE DE VEAU (in Tins).

VEAU ROTI (in Tins).

RIS DE VEAU (in Tins).

FRICANDAU (Assorted).

TRUFFES.

VEGETABLES (Assorted).

ANCHOVIES in Oil.

CAVIAR.

SARDINES in Lemon Juice.

SARDINES in Tomatas.

SARDINES in Oil.

FRENCH and ENGLISH MUSTARD.

SAUSAGES (Assorted).

LYONS SAUSAGES.

FRENCH & SPANISH OLIVES.

FRENCH ISIGNY BUTTER (in 1 and
2 lbs. Tins).

MACCARONI (Assorted) Paste for
Soups, Letters, stars, &c.

TAPIOCA.

FINE-GROUND MOCHA COFFEE.

C H E E S E.

GRUYERE.

ROQUEFORT.

DUTCH.

CALIFORNIA.

CREAM.

FRENCH TOBACCO AND
CIGARETTES.

ASSORTED PERFUMERY

FROM
PINAUD AND PIVERT OF PARIS.

A large quantity of
FRENCH MINERAL WATERS
in Pints of 100 bottles per Case.

CORK STOPPERS,
for Soda and other Bottles.

C L A R E T S
In Bottles and Wood.

CHATEAU LAROSE.

CHATEAU LAFITTE.

CHATEAU MARGAUX.

ST. EMILION.

MEDOC.

SAUTERNE.

PORTO.

SHERRY.

MARSALA.

B R A N D Y.

FRENCH COGNAC.

ABSINTHE.

L I Q U E U R S

CHARTREUSE (Pints and Quarts).

BENEDICTINE (Pints and Quarts).

MARASCHINO.

CURACAO.

ANISSETTE (Marie Brigard).

ANGOSTURA BITTERS.

BOKER'S BITTERS.

KIRSCHWASSER.

PEPPERMINT.

VERMOUTH (Nolly Prat).

VERMOUTH (Turino).

FANCY SILK UMBRELLAS.

And a VARIETY of OTHER GOODS.

Hongkong, 25th January, 1881. [17]

EXPRESSES FOR CONTRACT
ADVERTISEMENTS

Intimations.

KELLY & WALSH.

ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR, AND TO SUPPLY
FROM HOME DATES OF JANUARY 1st,
THE FOLLOWING ENGLISH, AMERICAN, AND CONTINENTAL PERIODICALS.—The Prices quoted are
the rates of Subscription for 12 months, including postage, *viz.* Bradisdi and Marseilles,
Scribner's Magazine.....\$ 6.00 Leslie's Illustrated Paper.....\$ 7.00 Engineer.....\$ 15.00
Harper's Monthly.....\$ 6.00 Harper's Weekly.....\$ 7.00 Engineering.....\$ 15.00
Popular Science Monthly.....\$ 7.00 Harper's Bazaar.....\$ 7.00 The Times (Weekly Ed.).....\$ 6.00
Illustrated News (in).....\$ 12.00 The World.....\$ 11.00 New York Police News.....\$ 7.00
including Xmas and all.....\$ 12.00 Weldon's Lady's Journal.....\$ 3.00 New York Police Gazette.....\$ 7.00
extra Numbers.....\$ 7.00 Family Herald.....\$ 7.00 Illus. Leipzig Zeitung.....\$ 14.00
Punch.....\$ 7.00 Die Modewelt.....\$ 5.00 Les Modes Parisiennes.....\$ 12.00
St. James's Budget.....\$ 11.00 Leisure Hour.....\$ 4.50 New York Illus. Times.....\$ 7.00
Whitehall Review.....\$ 11.00 Cassell's Family Mag.\$ 4.50 Mitchell's Marit. Regis.\$ 12.00
The Mail (3 times a week).....\$ 15.00 World of Fashion.....\$ 6.00
The Sea delivery of all periodicals is guaranteed, duplicate Copies being sent free of charge in
case of non receipt.

KELLY & WALSH are Sole Agents in Hongkong and the Coast Ports for "The London and China
Express," the Subscription for which is \$15.00 per Annum. This paper contains special information
upon all subjects connected with China, Japan, and the Far East; and makes a feature of giving full Market Reports and Quotations of Export and Imports.

SAYLE & CO. SHOWROOMS.

BEG TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY INTEND HAVING
THEIR GREAT CLEARANCE SALE
DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES AT REDUCED PRICES.

TOYS WILL BE SOLD AT HALF-PRICE.

VICTORIA EXCHANGE, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, January 30th, 1882. [79]

HAIR DRESSING SALOON

HONGKONG HOTEL

W. P. MOORE begs to inform the Gentlemen of Hongkong and Visitors that he has reduced the price of Hair-Cutting to 50 cents. Having now in his employ three competent Assistants who are always in attendance, he guarantees to execute this class of work in all its branches, with a perfection which cannot be excelled in any part of the World.

Mr. MOORE begs to recommend his GOGO SHAMPOO WASH to the public as unrivaled by any preparation ever produced for promoting the growth of the hair. The basis of this compound is made of soap root; the natives of the Philippine Islands never use anything else for washing their hair; they are never found bald, and it is quite common to see the females with hair from 5 to 6 feet long. By constantly using this shampoo Wash as directed, you will NEVER BE BALD.

The proprietor offers the Wash to the public entirely confident that by its restorative properties it will without fail arrest decaying hair. It completely eradicates scurf, dandruff, and cures all diseases of the scalp. It does not contain any poisonous drugs. By its cooling properties it allays the itching and fever of

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

Intimations.

NOW IN THE PRESS AND SHORTLY TO BE PUBLISHED.

BY AUTHORITY.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST, A NEW DIRECTORY FOR CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE PHILIPPINES, FOR THE YEAR 1882. PRICE TWO DOLLARS.

The above work will shortly be published at the office of this Paper, and will contain a Directory for the Ports in the large portion of Asia comprised between Penang, in the Straits Settlements, and the Northern Ports, including Formosa; the Treaty Ports of China and Japan; the Philippine Islands; the British Colony of Hongkong; and the Portuguese Colony of Macao. The work will also contain the Principal Treaties between European countries and the United States and the countries East of the Straits, together with conditions of Trade, and the Port, Customs, Consular, and Harbour Regulations for the Ports of China and Japan; and a description of the Ports, with the latest Trade Statistics taken from the Reports of the Imperial Maritime Customs and other reliable sources.

The various Governments and Municipal Corporations have been applied to for information, and all Public Bodies and Companies, Bankers, Merchants, Consuls, and Professional and other Residents, have supplied the necessary matter to ensure correctness upon forms sent for that purpose. The Naval and Military portions have been taken from the latest published official lists and revised at Head-quarters; in fact no pains have been spared to make "THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" a perfectly reliable *rade-mécum*.

"THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY AND HONG LIST FOR THE FAR EAST" will, in order that it may circulate extensively outside this Colony, be published at a POPULAR PRICE, and can be ordered at this Office for TWO DOLLARS.

There is not space in the compass of an ordinary advertisement to detail all the information introduced into the work, but it may be fairly asserted that no such Directory has ever been published, either in Hongkong, or any other part of the East, at the price.

"Telegraph" Office, Hongkong.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: THE TREATIES WITH CHINA, JAPAN, & SINGAPORE.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN:

A DESCRIPTION OF ALL THE TREATY PORTS IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

6, OFFICE, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN:

TRADE STATISTICS FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: THE CONDITIONS OF TRADE WITH CHINA & JAPAN.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL BE PUBLISHED AT TWO DOLLARS.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: THE PORT, CUSTOMS, CONSULAR, AND HARBOUR REGULATIONS OF THE TREATY PORTS OF CHINA & JAPAN.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY IS PUBLISHED AT TWO DOLLARS.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: LISTS OF MILITARY OFFICERS

serving in the China Command, which has been revised at Head-quarters.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN: THE NAMES OF THE NAVAL OFFICERS ON THE CHINA STATION.

Including the most recent appointments and local changes, corrected at Head-quarters.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY HAS BEEN

LARGELY ORDERED IN ALL PORTS

BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND NEWCHWANG.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY IS PUBLISHED AT TWO DOLLARS.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN:

THE LARGEST LIST OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN THE EAST.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY WILL CONTAIN:

THE ONLY CORRECT LIST OF HONGKONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

OFFICE, 6, PEDDAR'S HILL.

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
GENERAL CHEMISTS;

AND

Manufacturers of the following
AERATED WATER,
viz.:
SODA, TONIC, SARSAPARILLA;
GINGERADE, RASPBERRYADE,
AND PHOSPHORIC CHAMPAGNE.

Deliveries in Town and Harbour from
7 A.M. to 7 P.M.

SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFFITED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

Prompt Attention given to Coast Orders.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG.

SHANGHAI PHARMACY,
SHANGHAI.

CANTON DISPENSARY,
CANTON.

THE DISPENSARY,
FOOCHOW.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name. Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only, and rejected communications can not be returned. Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded.

MARRIAGE.

On the 16th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. C. F. Warren, of Osaka, and the Rev. W. Jennings, M.A., Colonel Captain George May, elder daughter of the late James Sharp, Esq., of Southampton, and niece of Edmund Sharp, Crown Solicitor, Hongkong, to the Rev. George Henry Post, B.A., of Osaka, Japan.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1882.

The circumstances connected with the death of WILLIAM LAPSLY, a sugar boiler in the employ of the China Sugar Refining Company, whose body was found on the 21st ulto, in the arch which runs through the wharf opposite Ship-street, Wan-chai, in fairness to the memory of the deceased should be thoroughly investigated and sifted to the very bottom. The matter has already been made the subject of inquiry at the usual Coroner's inquest before Mr. H. E. WODEHOUSE and a jury, but we are bound to say that taking the evidence elicited by the Coroner in its entirety, it is the reverse of conclusive or satisfactory, and Mr. WODEHOUSE would appear to be of our opinion, as he adjourned the inquiry for another week to see if some reasonable explanation of the man's somewhat mysterious death might not be obtained.

The circumstances, so far as have been ascertained, connected with Mr. LAPSLY's death, can be explained in a few words. Special notice, in fairness to the deceased, must be directed to the evidence of Acting Chief Inspector GAY, elicited at the Coroner's Inquest yesterday, as it has been currently reported, and generally believed that the unfortunate man was the worse for liquor, and while in that state stumbled over the wall into the water and so met his death. People are so apt to be ungenerous in arriving at unfounded conclusions of this description, that we can hardly wonder at the general conviction in this particular case. Let us see how far this opinion is borne out by facts. Mr. LAPSLY has been a resident in Hongkong for many years, and widely known as a generally steady and well conducted man. He had just completed arrangements to leave this Colony for the Luzon Sugar Refinery in Manila, where he was to assume the responsible position of principal sugar boiler. It is in evidence that on the morning of the 21st ulto, deceased left the Hongkong Hotel in company with Mr. THOMAS GREY, the Acting Chief Inspector of Police, shortly after twelve o'clock. Mr. GREY had some conversation with the deceased, and he swears that LAPSLY appeared quite sober and talked rationally, although he seemed a little loquacious. The deceased spoke of his approaching departure for Manila quite cheerfully, and expressed himself pleased with his prospects in the Luzon Refinery. Mr. GREY saw him get into a jinrikisha, wished him "good night," heard him observe that he was "going straight home," and nothing more is seen or heard of LAPSLY until his dead body is discovered in the arch opposite Ship-street, where it had evidently been left high and dry by the receding tide. In spite of the exertions of the police, no clue has been obtained as to the identity of the jinrikisha coolie under whose charge Mr. LAPSLY was last

seen alive. This appears a most singular circumstance, as the number of jinrikishas at the door of the hotel after midnight could not have been great, and ordinarily there should exist no insuperable difficulty in running this man to earth.

We do not suspect foul play. No robbery had been attempted. The deceased had money in his pockets, a gold ring was on his finger, another in his scarf, and a set of gold studs were in his shirt front. In all human probability LAPSLY met his death by an accident; but without further evidence bearing on the point, we are not prepared to subscribe to the theory advanced by Inspector GREY that deceased had probably slipped into the water opposite the Oriental Sugar Refinery where the Praya is open, and drifted down to where the body is found. Those who use jinrikishas going to East Point are aware that the road close to the sea, being much harder than on the opposite side, is almost invariably used by jinrikisha coolies. In fact they run so close to the edge of the wall, that even in daylight, there is danger of accidents. Is it not possible that in this case, the jinrikisha may have in some way come to grief, with such a disastrous result to poor LAPSLY? Many residents may remember a gentleman connected with our leading mercantile house, once very well known in Hongkong, who was driving along this road some years back when both pony and carriage turned clean over not twenty yards from the spot where the body of WILLIAM LAPSLY was found. However, theories in matter of this description are of little value, especially when they do not fit in with the facts of the case. The only way out of the difficulty is to discover the jinrikisha coolie who last saw LAPSLY alive; until he is found the Police have no grounds for congratulating themselves on the part they have taken in this sad drama of real life.

In the letter from the Secretary of the Howard Association, addressed to the Hon. F. B. Johnson, which we published the other day, reference was made, amongst other publications in England having reference to Hongkong, to letters of Mr. P. A. TAYLOR, M.P., to the English newspapers. "We have one of these in our possession, and, as it has not yet been published here, we append it, for the information of our readers, and especially of Mr. Johnson, who will doubtless be in position to disprove any of the facts as stated by Mr. TAYLOR should they be incorrect. We also publish another letter which appeared a few days later in the same newspaper, the *Echo*, and which doubtless forms part of the correspondence to which the attention of the honorable gentleman was directed:—

FLOGGING IN BRITISH DEPENDENCIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECHO.

SIR.—In this interesting letter in your issue of the 1st instant on Flogging in Hongkong, Mr. P. A. Taylor has touched but lightly on the opposition encountered by Governor Sir J. Pope Hennessy in his endeavour to limit the use of the lash on Chinese criminals, soon after his arrival in the Colony, during a visit of inspection to the jail in Victoria, he was struck by the inhuman manner in which the punishment of flogging was carried out. In papers laid before Parliament he has himself described, in graphic language, the manner in which prisoners were placed on low diet, such as rice and water, for some days previous to the infliction of the lash, to prepare the bodies of the poor wretches, as it were, for the punishment. He also describes in all its sickening detail the condition in which he found some of the convicts who had been flogged several times in succession. Pending reference to the Secretary of State, his Excellency took on himself the responsibility of suspending all floggings.

The practical success attending the benevolent experiment of Governor Hennessy should lead public opinion to say to other British rulers, "Go thou and do likewise."—Yours faithfully, P. A. TAYLOR.

Brighton, August 30th. P. A. TAYLOR.

FLOGGING IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECHO.

SIR.—In this interesting letter in your issue of the 1st instant on Flogging in Hongkong, Mr. P. A. Taylor has touched but lightly on the opposition encountered by Governor Sir J. Pope Hennessy in his endeavour to limit the use of the lash on Chinese criminals, soon after his arrival in the Colony, during a visit of inspection to the jail in Victoria, he was struck by the inhuman manner in which the punishment of flogging was carried out. In papers laid before Parliament he has himself described, in graphic language, the manner in which prisoners were placed on low diet, such as rice and water, for some days previous to the infliction of the lash, to prepare the bodies of the poor wretches, as it were, for the punishment. He also describes in all its sickening detail the condition in which he found some of the convicts who had been flogged several times in succession. Pending reference to the Secretary of State, his Excellency took on himself the responsibility of suspending all floggings.

The result of lengthened consideration by Sir Michael Hicks-Beach and Lord Kimberley is mentioned by Mr. Taylor. It is now ordered that no criminal in Hongkong is to be sentenced to the lash, except in cases where such punishment could be inflicted in England. Most of your readers, I doubt not, will be astonished to learn that this dreadful punishment could be ordered by the prison officials for offences of a most trivial description against prison discipline. Indeed, the impression left by the Parliamentary papers on the subject is that the unfortunate Chinese in Hongkong—many of them subjects of Her Majesty—were regarded by some of our countrymen as brutes rather than men with like feelings with ourselves. The Colonists of other than Chinese descent were, however, dissatisfied with the Governor's action in this matter, and held an indignation meeting—from which the Chinese of wealth and standing retired *en masse*—where speeches were made, some of which would have done credit to a Grand Inquisitor.

A petition was framed and sent to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, demanding a commission, and the re-imposition of the flogging ordinances. Thereby was very brief, and to the point. It informed the petitioners that, in the opinion of the secretary of State, they would be much better employed in assisting than in endeavouring to thwart the Governor in his administration, and that there was no reason to appoint any Commission of Inquiry. From that time, up to the present, Sir J. Pope Hennessy has had to encounter hostility of a more than usually bitter and unscrupulous character, from some of his own countrymen. His policy is very clear and well-defined, and, I submit, a wise and patriotic one. It is that the subjects of the Queen of Chinese descent, as well as subjects of the Emperor of China residing in Hongkong, shall stand before the Law and the Executive in precisely the same position as Europeans, and that they shall be subject to no disability or exception regulation for which strong and convincing reasons cannot be shown. When it is remembered that the Chinese in the Colony number about 1,800,000 against about 2,000,000 Europeans and Americans, that they pay about nine-five per cent. of the total taxation, that among them, as I can testify, are men of the highest probity, wealth, and public spirit, the gratitude with which the successive acts of the Governor's policy were received can well be imagined.

Perhaps your readers may not find the following extracts from official records without interest:—

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE BRANDING AND FLOGGING LAWS OF HONGKONG.

Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P., Government House, Hongkong, 18th May, 1880. After a few years' consideration and inquiry, I think the time has now come for modifying the flogging and branding ordinances of Hongkong, not merely in accordance with the more humane code of laws in civilised countries, but in accordance with the clear evidence obtained as to the evil effect in this Colony of the flogging and branding system, and its final condemnation by the officers entrusted with the administration of the law and the treatment of criminals.

In 1876, the year before my arrival, the number of prisoners flogged in Hongkong was 113. Since then the number of floggings has been as follows:—1876, 113; 1877, 53; 1878, 49; 1879, 18; 1880, up to date, none.

That the action of the Local Government has not occasioned any increase of crime is seen from the following figures, which appear in the enclosed returns:—

Number of admissions to the Hongkong Gaol:—1877, 3,946; 1878, 3,803; 1879, 3,669.

Number convicted and punished (fined or imprisoned) by the Police Magistrates:—1877, 7,998; 1878, 7,794; 1879, 6,119.

My recommendations are that the Branding

Ordinance be repealed; that all flogging be abolished except for such offences as entail flogging in England, and that flogging on the back be abolished by law.

DECISION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G.

Downing-street, 29th July, 1880.

SIR.—I have had under my consideration your despatches relating to the general subject of crime in Hongkong, and the treatment of criminals in the Colony at the present time, and I have decided to give my assent to the recommendations contained in paragraph 13 of your despatch No. 6.

I have come to this decision mainly because I entertain grave objection, on general grounds, to the infliction of the punishments in question, and especially that of flogging, for ordinary offences. In this country flogging has ceased to be employed as a means of repressing crime, except in the case of certain crimes of brutal violence; and as a means of prison discipline it is confined to the case of convicted prisoners who are guilty of serious offences against the regulations of the gaol.

DECREASE OF CRIME.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley to Governor Sir John Pope Hennessy, K.C.M.G.

Downing-street, 8th April, 1881.

SIR.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 14, transmitting the Criminal Statistics for the year 1880.

I am glad to notice a decrease in the number of serious crimes as compared with the two previous years.—I have, &c., KIMBERLEY.

Of course, Governor Hennessy had to contend at first with the prejudices of the officials, who predicted the worst results from such an exhibition of feeble humanitarianism.

The advocates of cruelty in punishment have always some excellent local reason for maintaining severity. In England we are told nothing will stop garroting but the "cat." In India it is impossible to keep order without the lash. In Hongkong it was the Chinese whose peculiar constitution demanded torture.

The practical success attending the benevolent experiment of Governor Hennessy should lead public opinion to say to other British rulers, "Go thou and do likewise."—Yours faithfully,

Brighton, August 30th. P. A. TAYLOR.

HONGKONG.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held in the offices, 14 Praya, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. There were present Messrs. H. Hopkins (Chairman), A. McIver, A. T. Manger, W. Reiners, C. H. Haswell, Jr., F. Bulkeley Johnson, J. de C. Forbes, (Directors) D. McCullough, W. M. Morgan, Crickshank, R. Innes, H. Foss, A. Coxon, V. C. Rocha, S. Hughes, A. Newton, D. Sayle, H. W. F. Darby, J. H. Cox, G. de Champeaux, J. V. V. Vernon, H. B. Pollichwala, F. H. Henderson, H. G. James, and Robert Cooke, Acting Secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose that they be taken as read. The result of our half-year's working, I think you will agree, is satisfactory; our gross earnings show again an increase on those of the previous six months, and the net profit represents a proportionate increase, although I regret to say we have quite unfortunately had to write off about \$6,000 for bad debts. The interest account is still about \$2,000 larger than in our previous statement, because interest on the value of the Cosmopolitan Duck has only to be charged thereon for about three months, but from now there will be a considerable saving as the West Point properties have been delivered to the purchasers, and we have been enabled to reduce our debt to the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company by \$175,000. In this connection I have, however, to mention that according to the terms of sale we have to leave \$60,000, on mortgage on the Belcher's Bay property until the 21st January, 1884; this sum has been advanced by the same company with our guarantee. The Belcher's Bay ship has been removed to Kowloon and will soon be in working order there. It has been taken over at a moderate valuation of \$20,000, and the realized profit in the sale of both properties amounts to \$37,500 which has been carried to Reserve fund. The MacDonald ship has not yet been disposed of, and its proceeds, when realized will go to the same fund. Our plant and machinery, as stated in the report, are all in good working order, but we have found it advisable to order out from home a supply of machinery of the newest style, which will greatly increase the efficiency of work and earning power at our various establishments. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have pleasure in stating that we continue to have ample work to do and that we have every reason to be satisfied with the prospects before us. I have now to propose the adoption of the Report and the passing of the accounts, but before doing so, I shall be happy to answer any question with reference to the same. No questions being asked Mr. D. McCullough seconded the Chairman's proposal, which was carried unanimously.

Mrs. A. T. MANGER proposed, and Mr. R. INNES seconded, that the election of the Hon. F. H. Johnson, Mr. W. Reiners, and Mr. H. de Courcy Forbes to seats on the Board be confirmed, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. A. McIver proposed the re-election as Directors of Messrs. A. T. Manger, and C. H. Haswell, which was seconded by Mr. ROCHA, and carried unanimously.

The re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and H. W. Davis, as auditors was proposed by Mr. HASWELL, seconded by the CHAIRMAN, and carried.

The CHAIRMAN informed the meeting that the Dividend Warrants would be ready to-morrow, and the proceedings terminated.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the General Agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., yesterday afternoon. There were present—Hon. F. B. Johnson (Chairman), Messrs. T. Jackson, A. P. MacEwen, A. T. Manger, J. H. dos Remedios, W. Reiners (Consulting Committee), A. Coxon, H. W. F. Darby, T. D. Rutherford, H. L. Dalrymple, E. George, M. B. Pollichwala, D. B. Tata, Dr. Adams, A. McIver, and E. Alfred (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, we will, as usual, with your consent, consider the report which has been distributed among the shareholders as read. This is the thirteenth annual general meeting which has been held since the incorporation of the society, and the sixteenth since its establishment, in the first instance as an unlimited Company, and I have great pleasure in congratulating the shareholders on the continued growth of its prosperity. The accounts which are presented to-day show that we are enabled to propose the payment for the year 1881 of the largest dividend yet declared, viz., \$75 per share, without any modification of the annual appropriation to the Reserve Fund. This appropriation will be \$62,000, against \$60,000 in the previous year, bringing up the fund to the respectable sum of \$83,000. As regards the business of the Company for the past year, 1881, I am happy to say that it shows an increase of risks taken to the extent of \$1,000,000, but there is another side to this picture, owing to the reduction of rates of premium brought about by the adoption on the part of the home offices of a policy, which I venture to think is one of overstrained and unwise competition, our larger business has been carried on for a decreased remuneration, compared with 1880, of nearly \$8,000. On the other hand, I may assure the shareholders that though the aggregate risks of the company have been thus increased, our liability to loss in any one locality is not heavier, care having been taken to effect re-insurances in all cases where the amount taken on any one block of buildings has been unusually large. The cost of these re-insurances for 1881 has been greater than in 1880 by \$3,000, thus making a total reduction of income derived from premium of about \$11,000. Against this deficiency we have received \$5,400 more on interest account, and the shareholders may be congratulated on the steady increase in this branch of their permanent income, which now yields annually about 27 per cent. on the paid up capital. The losses by fire during the past year have been very light, but just after the close, as you are aware, several fires have occurred in which I am glad to say the Company has not been very heavily interested. The loss occasioned by them will fall to the extent of \$14,000 on the account of 1881, and \$12,000 on those of 1882. I cannot close my remarks without expressing, on your behalf as well as that of the whole body of shareholders, our thanks to the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade for the protection they afford to the interests of the Company by the great services they render in the suppression of fires. But as I ventured to say on the occasion of the recent dinner given by the two local Companies to the Brigade, the voluntary organization to which we owe so much could not be held together merely for the protection of the dividends of financial associations, such as this we represent to-day. It seems to me that, speaking on the subject as I do to-day, and my colleague in the chair of the China Fire Insurance Co., a short time ago in what he said to the same effect, we may claim to represent the public in bearing testimony to the service to the public which is rendered with so much courage and at so great a risk by the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. How serious that risk is we have recently been made painfully aware of by the

fatal accident which occurred at the last fire, and which we all so greatly deplore. Before moving the adoption of the Report and the passing of the accounts, I have only to say that I shall be happy to answer any questions concerning them which may be put by the meeting.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. MacEwen, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. DALRYMPLE, seconded by Mr. WICKING, the Consulting Committee—Messrs. T. Jackson, A. P. MacEwen, A. T. Manger, J. H. dos Remedios, and W. Reiners were re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. REINERS, seconded by Mr. REMEDIOS, Messrs. H. Smith and A. Coxon were re-elected auditors.

Mr. MANGER—I beg to propose that the gentleman who acts as secretary be awarded the usual gratuity of \$500.

Mr. RUTTENJEE seconded.

Mr. VAUCHER—I think it ought to be paid by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., not by the Company.

Mr. MANGER—It has always been the custom.

Mr. VAUCHER—I simply make an objection; that is all.

The CHAIRMAN—Speaking on behalf of the General Agents, I may say we have always regarded this annual vote to the very able secretary of this company rather as a voluntary testimony of the shareholders' appreciation of his services, which originally wholly with them, than with any wish whatever that the General Agents should be relieved of a necessary charge falling upon themselves, but as there is the slightest objection to it suggested by the shareholders all I have to say is that from and after this time that remuneration will be adopted by the General Agents.

Several shareholders recommended Mr. Vaucher to withdraw his remark.

Mr. VAUCHER—I will withdraw it.

Mr. RUTTENJEE—Will Mr. Vaucher put his resolution on paper.

Mr. VAUCHER—I have not moved a resolution.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I have only to announce that the dividend warrants will be distributed to-morrow.

Mr. DALRYMPLE—I move a vote of thanks to the General Agents and the Consulting Committee for the very satisfactory report they have furnished to the shareholders and for their general care and attention to the interests of the company. Carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I have to thank you on behalf of the General Agents and Consulting Committee.—*Press.*

CHINA AND RUSSIA.

Under date January 23rd, the New York *Telegram* has the following special from St. Petersburg:—Following are the results of the first sitting of the Commission charged to study the project to create on the Chinese frontier a new region, to be administered by a Governor-General. The sitting was presided over by the Minister of War. After an animated debate of three hours, the Commission agreed, almost unanimously, to the following resolution:—

The military circumscription of Siberia to be suppressed—a military region administered by a Governor-General, and grouping the provinces of Servia, Palatinsk, Aksouinsk and Semiretchinsk, shall be organized, the province of Amoor, to be separated from Eastern Siberia, having Khorobrovka for the seat of Government, the provinces of Imsk and Cholok to pass under the common regime, and under the direct jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior.

In this way the provinces of Syr Daria, Fergana, Amdouria and Amoor, will pass under the authority of the Governor-General of Turkistan, and the provinces of Trans, Balkal, Irkutsk, Veniseisk, and Irkutsk will be administered by the Governor-General of Eastern Siberia. The vote of the Commission is to be submitted to the approval of the Minister of the Interior, and if this is obtained, to the sanction of the Emperor. The Governor of the new provinces is to be the celebrated General Tscherniaeff. These dispositions prove that Russia does not feel tranquil at regards China, which has gradually assembled a considerable army of soldiers where the Russians have only a comparatively weak force, and where it will be \$62,000, against \$60,000 in the previous year, bringing up the fund to the respectable sum of \$83,000. As regards the business of the Company for the past year, 1881, I am happy to say that it shows an increase of risks taken to the extent of \$1,000,000, but there is another side to this picture, owing to the reduction of rates of premium brought about by the adoption on the part of the home offices of a policy, which I venture to think is one of overstrained and unwise competition, our larger business has been carried on for a decreased remuneration, compared with 1880, of nearly \$8,000. On the other hand, I may assure the shareholders that though the aggregate risks of the company have been thus increased, our liability to loss in any one locality is not heavier, care having been taken to effect re-insurances in all cases where the amount taken on any one block of buildings has been unusually large. The cost of these re-insurances for 1881 has been greater than in 1880 by \$3,000, thus making a total reduction of income derived from premium of about \$11,000. Against this deficiency we have received \$5,400 more on interest account, and the shareholders may be congratulated on the steady increase in this branch of their permanent income, which now yields annually about 27 per cent. on the paid up capital. The losses by fire during the past year have been very light, but just after the close, as you are aware, several fires have occurred in which I am glad to say the Company has not been very heavily interested. The loss occasioned by them will fall to the extent of \$14,000 on the account of 1881, and \$12,000 on those of 1882. I cannot close my remarks without expressing, on your behalf as well as that of the whole body of shareholders, our thanks to the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade for the protection they afford to the interests of the Company by the great services they render in the suppression of fires.

But as I ventured to say on the occasion of the recent dinner given by the two local Companies to the Brigade, the voluntary organization to which we owe so much could not be held together merely for the protection of the dividends of financial associations, such as this we represent to-day. It seems to me that, speaking on the subject as I do to-day, and my colleague in the chair of the China Fire Insurance Co., a short time ago in what he said to the same effect, we may claim to represent the public in bearing testimony to the service to the public which is rendered with so much courage and at so great a risk by the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. How serious that risk is we have recently been made painfully aware of by the

Chinese miners, the assay of some neighbouring quartz reefs has yielded 2 ozs. of gold and 130 ozs. of silver to the ton, which is very promising.

At present gold mining in the northern district of Western Borneo is entirely in the hands of the Chinese. The Malay population is too lazy to work, and the Dyaks are not very intelligent as a rule. The Dyak country where the Chinese have not yet penetrated is richly wooded, well watered, and is believed to be quite as rich in mineral deposits. The Chinese miners obtain a license from the Dutch magistrate, for which he pays one guilder (rs. 7d.) per month for each workman. The necessary funds are provided by Chinese capitalists at an interest of 24 or 36 per cent., or even more. The miners are working on a cooperative principle. The washing of one Chinese company near Buekajang yielded lately in six months £1,800; the costs of working, including the exorbitant charges for interest, amounted to £1,400, leaving a profit of £800, which is more than can be said of all the much lauded gold mines of southern India. So far there has been more surface work, and so far no shafts have been sunk or levels driven.

As they have no appliances for pumping the explorations are extremely shallow, and are abandoned for others as soon as the water begins to collect. The workings at the outcrop of the veins have given good results, and by strict economy, combined with scientific skill, Mr. Van Schelle firmly believes that these veins will yield large returns, and that the districts of Landak and Sambas offer valuable prospects for the employment of European capital in the development of their mineral wealth.

ROMANTIC FRENCH LAW SUIT.

A Paris correspondent writes:—In a week or two the law will pronounce its verdict in a case which has for some time past been the topic of conversation in social circles, and out of which a writer might find sufficient materials for a drama or a novel. The law has been appealed to as umpire between two women of high position—the Duchess de Chevreuse and the Duchess de Chaulnes (*née* the Princess Galitzine). The apple of discord is—whether of them (the former being the grandmother, the latter the mother) is to have the care of the children born of the short and unhappy union between the Princess and the Duke de Chaulnes, who died a short time since, and was, prior to his death, suing for a separation from his wife. To go back to the first chapter of this sad story, it is necessary to state that the Duchess de Chevreuse, who is an austere matron and a rigid Catholic, saw her two sons, a nephew of the Duke de Chaulnes and his elder brother leave their ancestral chateau in 1870 to take part in the defense of their country. The Duke Albert de Luynes, the elder brother, was killed in an engagement with the enemy, during which the younger one was seriously wounded. When the war was over and the latter recovered from his wounds, he found himself at the age of 22 on the threshold of life with an illustrious name, a large fortune, and the reputation of having done his duty bravely as a soldier. In the winter of 1875 he first became acquainted with the Princess Galitzine, a remarkably-beautiful woman, with whom he ultimately married, in spite of the objections raised by his mother to the union. The principal reason for the aversion felt by the Duke's family for the beautiful young *fiancée* lay in the fact that she had not been brought up very strictly, that she was fond of pleasure, and, in a word, in no way shared her mother-in-law's views on religion, preferring rather to frequent balls or race-courses than church. The marriage, however, took place, and for a short time all went on well. Gradually clouds arose; the young couple, it was said, did not understand each other; the mother-in-law entreated a profound dislike for her daughter-in-law, and lost no opportunity of setting her son against his wife. She instilled the poison of jealousy into his mind; she intimated that the Princess had married him because he was a millionaire, she herself being comparatively without fortune; and hinted that if he wished to save the honour of the name he bore he must keep a strict watch over the youthful Duchess. The latter, irritated at the surveillance exercised over her every act, wearied by the unceasing reproofs of her mother-in-law respecting her husband, endeavoured to drown her cares in a ceaseless round of pleasure. She rode on horseback, she drove, her toilettes were somewhat extravagant, her partiality for admiration excessive, her conduct rather flighty, perhaps. The austere Duchess de Chevreuse was not long in giving matters a worse colouring, and under her influence her son was led to believe that his wife had compromised his reputation. One day in the beginning of the present year all Paris was talking of an extraordinary scene which had taken place at the country seat of the Duchess de Chevreuse. Her daughter-in-law, suspected of infidelity to her husband, had, with his consent, been made to do penance in the following manner:—All the valets, servants, and employees on the estate, were assembled together in the saloon, where all the members of the husband's family were likewise. The young and alleged guilty wife was led as a culprit, made to kneel down, and in the presence of every one confessed her guilt, and asked pardon of God, of her husband, and his family. Tyrannised over, coerced, weary of the perpetual animosity of her husband's relatives, she avowed, according to her subsequent statement, what was untrue, in order to obtain a reconciliation with her husband, which was to be the reward of her submission. They were, in fact, reconciled, and went to Italy for a time, where, freed from the surveillance of the rigid mother-in-law, they lived happily. On their return to Paris, however, the storm broke out again. The Duchess regained her ascendancy over the rather weak mind of her son, whose health was then undermined by the disease to which he succumbed later on, and at length the Duchess de Chevreuse persuaded him to seek a judicial separation from his wife. Before the case could be heard, however, death intervened, and parted the two young people who had commenced their married existence under the happiest auspices. But the widow was not allowed to pass her time of mourning in peace, or seek consolation in the society of her children. Her mother-in-law and the husband's relatives commanded her to make over the children to them, threatening, if she refused, to disown her publicly. She did refuse, the consequence being that the threat was carried out. The Duchess de Chaulnes declared in Court that her whole life since her marriage had been embittered by the implacable hatred of her husband's family, her counsel proved that the accusations brought against her morality were baseless, that the utmost which could be proved against his client was that she was fond of pleasure, pleased with the admiration her beauty elicited, and that she entertained a profound dislike for the austere piety which reigned in the mother-in-law's chateau. Judgment was postponed, and the Duchess de Chaulnes is still uncertain whether she will be permitted to keep her children or whether the law will order her to confide them to the grandmother, with permission to see them at stated intervals.

A great many scandalous stories have been circulated *abrepros* of this cause célèbre, but the general verdict of public opinion appears to be that the widow of the Duke de Chaulnes is more sinning than when found in mists, it is probable that these veins will prove valuable for

GAMBETTA'S DIFFICULTIES.

Under date January 23rd, the New York *Herald*'s Paris cablegram says:—The quarrel between Gambetta and the Chamber has been much, if not indeed dangerously, embittered by the events of Saturday afternoon. Points of personal dignity have been raised, which it would have been prudent to avoid altogether, and in the passionate heat of the moment the original issue, which led to the appointment of the Committee of Revision, has been strangely lost sight of.

The questions before the country and the Committee on Saturday morning were the following: First—Is it or is it not advisable to call together a Congress for the purpose of revising the Constitution? second—It is advisable that the Chamber should, when it has assembled, insert in the revised Constitution a clause establishing the principle that Deputies should hereafter be elected by departmental *scrutin de liste*, or shall they vote by ticket?

At the present moment the issue exciting the country is neither of these, but is, whether the Congress is supreme and sovereign or not. Gambetta, with regrettable and needless violence, has denied the sovereignty of the Congress, declaring that if it is insisted on exceeding the limits of discussion prescribed for it by the separate resolutions of the two Chambers, its actions would become unconstitutional and revolutionary, and the President would then have to consider how to get rid of it.

The Committee has replied to this menace by an able and carefully-worded resolution, tacitly rejecting the principle of *scrutin de liste* elections, and implicitly proclaiming its theory or Congressional supremacy. By so doing it has, of course, placed itself in direct opposition to Gambetta.

On the other hand, in the same resolution it has declared it advisable to call together a Congress to revise certain clauses of the Constitution, the clauses being, with the single exception of that referring to the manner in which Deputies should be elected, the very ones which Gambetta himself called for revision. A report embodying these determinations will no doubt be laid before the Chamber to-day. It will then remain to be seen whether the Chamber on reflection will endorse the resolutions of its delegates, or whether, to avoid a worse evil, it will yield to Gambetta.

Whatever course it adopts, the prospect is the reverse of encouraging. By submission it may stave off a ministerial crisis, but at the cost of its own prestige. By resisting, it will have asserted the independence of Parliament, but it will have upset the only man who had influence enough to form a stable Cabinet.

There is one way of escape, however, from this of disagreeable dilemma. Gambetta may, however unlikely it seems, give way on the *scrutin de liste* question. It would be politic, even from his personal point of view, for him not to take his stand upon this issue. His conduct would otherwise most certainly be misconstrued, and the Intransigents would have at least a show of reason in denouncing him as a would-be dictator.

The French Press is at present almost unanimously hostile to the Cabinet.

THE SKY IN 1882.

If 1881 was pre-eminently the astrologers' year, owing to the great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, upon which so many fruitful prophecies were based, 1882 will be in a similar sense the astronomers' year, on account of the transit of Venus. The transit does not occur until December, but the astronomers are already preparing for their observations of it. In fact, they began their preparations more than twenty-five years ago—so important is this event to astronomical science. By the transit of Venus is meant the passage of that planet between the earth and the sun, so that the planet is seen against the disk of the sun like a black dot. It owes its importance to the fact that it furnishes perhaps the best means of measuring the distance between the earth and the sun, and this distance is the astronomer's yard-stick, without which he cannot get along. The more accurately the sun's distance is known, the more correct become other astronomical measurements. Modern estimates of this distance have varied between 95,600,000 miles and 91,000,000 miles. Since the transit of 1874, it has been put at about 97,300,000 miles, but the astronomers think they are yet one or two hundred thousand miles out of the way, and this year they hope to cut these limits of error down very much. The results they achieve must stand for another century since they will not be another transit of Venus until 2004.

There will be the usual number of conjunctions of the moon with the various planets this year.

Although of no special value to the astronomer, these conjunctions are interesting and often beautiful phenomena, and they serve to point out the planets to those who otherwise might be unable to identify the earth's sister worlds among

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

Commercial.

THIS DAY, FOUR P.M.

A very large amount of important business has been transacted on the Stock Exchange since our last issue, and there is every appearance of considerable activity being manifested in the sale and transfer of shares for some time to come. After the settlements had been satisfactorily adjusted yesterday afternoon, inquiries after Banks and Docks were heard on all sides which resulted in extensive sales of both these stocks at 111 and 51, and 52 per cent. premium respectively. The movement has been continued to-day, a very large business indeed having been negotiated in Banks at 111, the stock leaving off firm, with more buyers at the quotation. The upward movement in the Docks Company's shares - which we predicted a week ago - still continues, transactions of a most significant character, involving the transfer of many hundreds of shares at 53 and latterly at 54 for cash, having been booked in the course of the day. A strong demand still exists for the stock at the last mentioned price, but would-be sellers hold out for better terms, which, judging from present appearances, they will no doubt be able to secure. The yearly meeting of the Company passed off very pleasantly and satisfactorily this afternoon; a report of the proceedings will be found in another column. Canton Insurances are slightly weaker than when we last wrote, a number of shares being on offer at 874, without leading to business. A few transfers have to be noted in China Fires at 280 ex div., buyers offering to go on at the same rate. Steamboats are offered at 24 per share premium, without inducing speculators to invest, but at slightly lower figures we think a large number of shares could be placed without much difficulty. Sugars stand nominally at 170, a fair number of shares being offered at that rate; but no business in this stock has come under our notice for some considerable time past. There are no changes in Hotels to report; but we may mention that the 142 shares belonging to the Company, for which tenders were invited by advertisement, have been taken up at 24 per cent. premium. This may surely be taken as a strong indication of the existence of a general belief in the capability of the present Board of Directors to make the Hotel Company - what it certainly ought to be if properly managed - a prosperous and paying concern.

SHARES.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank - 111 per cent. premium, sales and buyers. Union Insurance Society of Canton - \$1,600 per share, buyers. China Traders' Insurance Company - \$1,600 per share. North China Insurance - Tls. 1,125 per share. Canton Insurance Company, Limited - \$871 per share, sellers. Yangtze Insurance Association - Tls. 885 per share. China Insurance Company - \$280 per share, sellers. Tai Insurance Company, Limited - Tls. 150 per share. Hongkong Fire Insurance Company - \$970 per share, buyers. China Fire Insurance Company - \$280 per share, ex div. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company - 54 per cent. premium, sales and buyers. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co. - \$24 premium, sellers. Hongkong Gas Company - \$85 per share. Hongkong Hotel Company - \$102 per share. China Sugar Refining Company, Limited - \$170 per share, sellers. China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures) - 3 per cent. premium. Hongkong Lee Company - \$130 per share. Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited - \$82 per share. Chinese Imperial Loan of 1878 - 14 per cent. premium. Chinese Imperial Loan of 1881 - 3 per cent. premium.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON. -
Bank Bills, on demand 3/83
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 3/84
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/91
Credits, at 4 months' sight 3/92
Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/93
ON PARIS. -
Bank Bills, on demand 4/68
Credits, at 4 months' sight 4/80
ON HONFORD. -
Bank, T.T. 220
ON CALCUTTA. -
Bank, T.T. 220
ON SHANGHAI. -
Bank, sight 723
Private, 30 days' sight 734

OPPIUM MARKET. - THIS DAY.

NEW MALWA per picul, \$600 (Allowance, Tael 56).
OLD MALWA per picul, \$705 (Allowance, Tael 56).
PATNA (without choice) per chest, \$592.
PATNA (first choice) per chest, \$595.
PATNA (second choice) per chest, \$590.
PATNA (bottom) per chest, \$6072.
BENARAS (without choice) per chest, \$595.
BENARAS (bottom) per chest, \$6022.
PERSIAN per picul, \$500.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

(From Mississ. FALCONER & Co's REGISTER.)
THIS DAY.

Barometer - 9 A.M.	30.442
Barometer - 1 P.M.	30.424
Barometer - 4 P.M.	30.472
Thermometer - 9 A.M.	64
Thermometer - 4 P.M.	67
Thermometer - 1 P.M. (Wet bulb)	62
Thermometer - 1 P.M. (Wet bulb)	63
Thermometer - 4 P.M. (Wet bulb)	64
Thermometer - Maximum	67
Thermometer - Minimum (over night)	63

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

March 1, BELLEROPHON, British steamer, 1,396, Freeman, Shanghai 26th February, General - Butterfield & Swire.
March 1, PEGASUS, British gunboat, Commander E. F. Day, from a cruise.
March 1, KWANTUNG, British steamer, 674, M. Young, Foochow 25th Feb., Amoy 26th, and swatow 28th, General - D. Lapraik & Co.
March 1, WELLE, German steamer, 393, Moesmann, Keeling 26th Feb., Coal - Meyer & Co.
March 1, NINGA, British steamer, 761, R. Cass, Shanghai 26th February, "General" - Siemens & Co.
March 1, CANOTIS, British steamer, 1,818, R. H. Joy, London 7th January, Malta 17th, suez 22nd, Aden 31st, Bombay 16th Feb., and Singapore 16th, General - Russell & Co.
CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.
Cirrus, Spanish steamer, for Manila.
City of Tokio, American steamer, for Yokohama and San Francisco.
J. T., Danish steamer, for Heilow.
Andromeda, German ship, for Manila.
Hertha, German steamer, for Shanghai.
China, German steamer, for swatow.

DEPARTURES.

Feb. 28, TANIS, French str., for Yokohama.
March 1, YANGTSE, French str., for Shanghai.
March 1, SOPHIE, German bark, for Takao.
March 1, VIGILANT, British gunboat, for Canton.
March 1, CITY OF TOKIO, American steamer, for Yokohama and San Francisco.
TO DEPART.
Per *Antar*, str., for Hoilow, -30 Chinese.
Per *Hertha*, str., for Shanghai, -2 European.
Per *Ningpo*, str., from Singapore, -10 Chinese.
Per *Canopus*, str., for Singapore, -10 Chinese.
DEPARTED.
Per *Faunus*, str., for Shanghai. -From Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Cave Thomas, Mrs. Glover and amah, Messrs. A. J. M. Inverarity and servant, A. P. McFie, and servant, A. J. How, L. Menden, P. V. Grant, J. Russell, and P. N. Paulsen and 5 Chinese. From Marseilles, -Mr. and Mrs. Neville May, 3 children, and amah, Messrs. Beauchamp and Jackson.
Per *City of Tokio*, str., for Yokohama and San Francisco, -10 Europeans and 1,075 Chinese.

TO DEPART.
Per *Antar*, str., for Hoilow, -30 Chinese.
Per *Hertha*, str., for Shanghai, -2 European.
Per *China*, str., for swatow, -60 Chinese.
REPORTS.
The German steamship *Welle* reports left Keeling on the 26th February, and had variable winds.

The British steamship *Bellerophon* reports left Shanghai on the 26th February, and had fine weather.

The British steamship *Antar* reports left Keeling on the 26th February, and had moderate N.E. winds with cloudy, fine weather. From Amoy to swatow fresh N.E. winds and fine, clear weather. From swatow to port moderate monsoon and cloudy, dull weather. In Amoy the steamship *Albany*. In swatow the steamships *Kielung*, *Santow*, *Chefoo*, *Foochow*, and *Yeh-tsin*. The steamship *Hai-long* left swatow for Amoy on the 28th.

AMERICAN SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
15. Fokien, British steamer, from Foochow.
15. Haikong, British str., from Hongkong.
15. Muun, British gunboat, from swatow.
17. Wells, German steamer, from Formosa.
17. Siberian, German bark, from Chefoo.
17. Pallas, German bark, from Chetow.
17. Fei-hoo, Chinese gunboat, from Taiwan.
18. Che-uen, Chinese gunboat, from Taiwan.
18. Thales, British steamer, from Hongkong.
18. Kwangtung, British str., from Hongkong.
19. Kwangtung, British steamer, for swatow.

DEPARTURES.

15. see-wei, British steamer, for swatow.

15. Haikong, British steamer, for Tamsui.

15. Fokien, British steamer, for swatow.

15. Muun, British gunboat, for Foochow.

18. Thales, British steamer, for Foochow.

19. Helena, German bark, for Chefoo.

21. Vixen, Dutch bark, for Chefoo.

21. Kwangtung, British steamer, for Foochow.

21. Nagasaki, shipping.

February - ARRIVALS.

4. Takachibu Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.

4. Tokio Maru, Japanese str., from shanghai.

4. Strelak, Russian gunboat, from kobe.

4. Kanazawa Maru, Jap. str., from Yhama.

4. Chilton, British steamer, from shanghai.

4. Ginkai Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.

4. Waverley, British steamer, from shanghai.

4. Soldier, British bark, from shanghai.

4. Telemachus, British str., from shanghai.

4. Hungarian, British str., from Hongkong.

4. Ardentine, British steamer, from shanghai.

4. Oaklands, British steamer, from shanghai.

4. Nagoya Maru, Jap. str., from shanghai.

4. Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, for kobe.

4. February - DEPARTURES.

4. Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, for Kobe.

4. Muun, German bark, for swatow.

4. Takachibu Maru, str., for Hakodate.

4. Gervase, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Strelak, Russian gunboat, for a cruise.

4. Waverley, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Chilton, British steamer, for shanghai.

4. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.

4. Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, for kobe.

4. February - DEPARTURES.

4. Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, for Kobe.

4. Muun, German bark, for swatow.

4. Takachibu Maru, str., for Hakodate.

4. Gervase, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Strelak, Russian gunboat, for a cruise.

4. Waverley, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Chilton, British steamer, for shanghai.

4. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.

4. Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, for kobe.

4. February - DEPARTURES.

4. Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, for Kobe.

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4. Waverley, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Chilton, British steamer, for shanghai.

4. Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.

4. Nagoya Maru, Japanese steamer, for kobe.

4. February - DEPARTURES.

4. Tokio Maru, Japanese steamer, for Kobe.

4. Muun, German bark, for swatow.

4. Takachibu Maru, str., for Hakodate.

4. Gervase, British steamer, for Hakodate.

4. Strel